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# draft public summary

## areawide policy alternatives for water quality management

issue paper 1—alternatives  
issue paper 2—evaluation

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## Policy Alternatives For Major Water Quality Issues

Listed below are summary statements of 25 water quality issues and the policy alternatives for each. Each of the policy alternatives has advantages and disadvantages when considering environmental, social, economic and political impacts.

### I. WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

#### I.1 An Areawide Water Quality Management Strategy Integrating Point and Nonpoint Source Planning and Controls.

Are point and nonpoint source control planning sufficiently integrated now? If not, how should integration be achieved to arrive at the most effective water quality control strategy for the South Coast area at the least social, economic and environmental cost?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current integration as sufficient
- 2) Support further integration through work to identify specific needs in specific watersheds.
- 3) Support further integration throughout the region.

#### I.2 Preventive and Protective Approaches to Water Quality Management Which Minimize the Entry of Pollutants to Receiving Waters.

How strongly should preventive and protective approaches for water quality management be supported in 208 planning?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support water quality control measures where required by State and Federal law.
- 2) Support preventive water quality control measures where analysis shows they will protect water quality.
- 3) Support preventive water quality measures universally to achieve the 1985 "No Discharge of Pollutants" Federal goal.

### II. NONPOINT SOURCE CONTROL NEEDS

#### II.1 Preventing and Controlling Nonpoint Sources of Pollution Through Land Use Planning and Control.

Are current land use practices sufficiently sensitive for nonpoint source pollution? If not, what should the roles of various levels of government be in achieving greater consideration of nonpoint sources in the future?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current practices as sufficient.
- 2) Support increased consideration of nonpoint sources in land use planning and control where water quality standards are violated. Seek additional Federal/State funding.
- 3) Support increased consideration of nonpoint sources in land use planning and control through areawide guidelines developed with local governments. Seek additional Federal/State funding.

#### II.2: Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Lands to Prevent Water Quality Problems, Including Protection of Land Overlying Aquifers for Recharge Purposes.

Environmentally sensitive lands include wetlands, estuaries, land overlying aquifers, aquifer recharge areas, lands with steep slopes and erodable soils, river beds and banks, flood plains and woodlands. Are current controls on the uses of environmentally sensitive lands sufficient to protect water quality? If not, how should greater protection be achieved in the future?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current local practices as sufficient.
- 2) Support further protection of environmental sensitive lands where water quality standards are being violated. Seek additional incentives for protection.
- 3) Support further protection of environmentally sensitive lands through areawide guidelines, inventories, and classifications. Seek additional incentives for protection.

#### II.3: Preventive Management Strategies for Control of Pollutants in Stormwater Runoff.

How strongly should preventive management strategies for pollutants in stormwater runoff be supported in concept? What level of research is needed to justify implementation of preventive management strategies?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support management of wasteloads in runoff where they have caused known water quality problems. Support further management only after further research.
- 2) Support additional management of wasteloads in runoff to protect water quality in watersheds with large pollutant loads, simultaneously with additional research.
- 3) Support additional management of wasteloads in runoff to protect water quality throughout the region.

#### II.4: Preventive Management Strategies for Runoff and Erosion Control at Construction Sites.

How strongly should stricter enforcement and modification of existing erosion and grading control ordinances be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support existing practices as sufficient.
- 2) Support stricter enforcement and modification of grading ordinances in areas where analysis shows damage would be reduced.
- 3) Support stricter enforcement and modification of grading ordinances throughout the region to protect water quality.

#### II.5: Preventive Management Strategies for Control of Agricultural Sources of Pollution.

How strongly should preventive management strategies for agricultural nonpoint sources be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support management of agricultural nonpoint sources for special areas where agriculture has caused a known water quality problem.
- 2) Support preventive management strategies for agricultural nonpoint sources where analysis shows water quality would be protected.
- 3) Support preventive management strategies for agricultural nonpoint sources throughout the region to protect water quality.

#### II.6: Preventive Management Strategies for Miscellaneous Nonpoint Sources of Pollution (Aerial Fallout, Saline Water Intrusion, Silviculture and Mining).

Aerial fallout, saline water intrusion, silviculture (forestry) and mining have been of relatively low priority in SCAG's 208 planning. How strongly should preventive management strategies for these sources be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- A. Aerial Fallout
- 1) Support reduction of air emissions to minimize their air quality impacts.
  - 2) Support reduction of air emissions to minimize their impact on the total environment.
- B. Saline Water Intrusion
- 1) Support management of saline water intrusion where known groundwater quality problems have occurred.
  - 2) Support prevention of saline water intrusion to protect groundwater supplies.
- C. Silviculture
- 1) Support management of silvicultural nonpoint sources where known water quality problems have occurred.
  - 2) Support preventive management strategies for silvicultural nonpoint sources to protect water quality.
- D. Mining
- 1) Support management of mining nonpoint sources where known water quality problems have occurred.
  - 2) Support preventive management strategies for mining nonpoint sources to protect water quality.

### III. MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM NEEDS

#### III.1: Consistency of Wastewater Management Planning with Areawide Growth Policies and Demographic Projections.

Two major issues are important. First, how should the design capacity of wastewater facilities be determined, and how should the design capacity be used in determining consistency of wastewater facilities with areawide growth forecasts? Second, what kind of development policy should be encouraged in areas with deficiencies in wastewater facilities capacity?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- A. Design Capacity of Wastewater Facilities
- 1) Support sizing of wastewater facilities based on "ultimate development" determined from local plans or zoning. Ensure consistency of facilities with areawide growth forecasts through timing of facilities use.
  - 2) Support sizing of wastewater facilities based on long-term areawide growth forecasts. Ensure consistency of facilities with areawide growth forecasts through timing of facilities use.
  - 3) Support sizing based on relatively short-term areawide growth forecasts. Ensure consistency of facilities with areawide growth forecasts through location and size of facilities and through timing of facilities use.
- B. Development Policy
- 1) In locations with wastewater capacity deficiencies, encourage local governments to re-examine development policy.
  - 2) In locations with wastewater capacity deficiencies, encourage development to be restricted until deficiencies are corrected and monitoring of system capacity.
  - 3) In locations with wastewater capacity deficiencies, support sewer hook-up moratoria.

#### III.2: Mitigation of Growth-Related Air Impacts of Wastewater Management Facilities.

Should restrictions on wastewater facilities expansion continue to be used for air quality control, as is the current state and federal policy?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support the current (February, 1978) state and federal policy on restricting wastewater facilities capacity.
- 2) Support alternative policies in 208 and AQMP planning.

#### III.3: Federal and State Discharge Requirements for Municipal and Industrial Discharges.

What policy position should be taken in the 208 plan regarding discharge limitations?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support strict enforcement of discharge where research shows detrimental impacts and that alternatives are less detrimental.
- 2) Support strict enforcement of discharge requirements for all discharges.

#### III.4: Level of Treatment for Wastewater Discharged to the Ocean.

What treatment levels for marine wastewater discharges should be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support treatment levels for marine discharges which maintain existing water quality and marine life.
- 2) Support treatment levels for marine discharges which protect, enhance and restore water quality and marine life. Consider wastewater reclamation as an alternative for marine discharge.
- 3) Consider wastewater reclamation as a preferred alternative to marine discharges, unless marine discharges can be shown to be preferable.

#### III.5: Industrial Pretreatment Programs to Prevent Adverse Effects of Pollutants.

Industrial pretreatment programs are necessary to prevent environmental problems caused by industries discharging to municipal sewage treatment systems. What types and levels of local pretreatment programs should be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support flexibility of management agencies to choose among various pretreatment programs.
- 2) Support pretreatment programs to prevent treatment plant interference and to meet water quality and discharge standards. Generally, do not support changes until further analyzed in 208 continuing planning. Support efforts to manage pretreatment sludges.

- 3) Support pretreatment programs to prevent treatment plant interference, to meet water quality and discharge standards, to minimize sludge contamination, and to minimize the pollutants passing through treatment plants. Support efforts to manage pretreatment sludge.

#### III.6: Alternative Management Strategies for On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal.

How strongly should on-site wastewater management alternatives be supported for rural areas?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) The choice of alternative systems in rural areas should rely on desires of affected residents as much as possible, consistent with health and environmental constraints.
- 2) Support construction of centralized sewerage systems in rural areas wherever groundwater quality or public health could be adversely affected.
- 3) Support construction of centralized sewerage systems in rural areas, where alternatives are feasible, only when lack of sewers will cause a groundwater problem or health hazard. Support use of on-site systems and formation of septic tank management zones where proper siting, design and maintenance principles are followed to protect groundwater quality and public health.

### IV. RESIDUAL WASTE CONTROL AND STORMWATER SYSTEM NEEDS

#### IV.1: Integration of Water Quality Goals in Residual Waste Systems Planning and Operation.

How strongly should residual waste management strategies which prevent water quality problems and protect water quality be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current consideration of water quality goals in residual waste management as sufficient.
- 2) Support residual waste management strategies which protect water quality and prevent water quality problems.

#### IV.2: Strategies for Sludge Resources Recovery or Disposal.

What type of regional sludge management strategy should be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support the sludge management strategy with the least construction, operation and maintenance costs.
- 2) Support the sludge management strategy with the least environmental, social, economic and resource costs, considered jointly.
- 3) Support the sludge management strategy which minimizes environmental and public health risks.

#### IV.3: Integration of Water Quality Goals in Stormwater Systems Planning and Operations.

In developing areas, how much should runoff volume and peak be reduced in new development? In developed areas, how strongly should operational changes in stormwater management be supported to protect water quality?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- A. Developing Areas
- 1) Support current stormwater system planning in developing areas as sufficient.
  - 2) Support measures to reduce runoff volume and peak in new development to prevent water quality problems.
- B. Developed Areas
- 1) Support operational changes in stormwater systems management in developed areas when required by State or Federal law.
  - 2) Support operational changes in stormwater systems management in developed areas to protect water quality.
  - 3) Support operational changes in stormwater systems management in developed areas to protect water quality and to reuse stormwater to the maximum extent possible.

### V. WATER CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION

#### V.1: Institutional, Legal, Social and Political Barriers to Increased Reuse of Municipal Wastewater, including Equity Considerations.

Should changes in institutional, legal and financial arrangements be supported to increase municipal wastewater reuse?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support existing institutional, legal and financial arrangements as sufficient for wastewater reclamation.
- 2) Support appropriate changes in institutional, legal and financial arrangements to increase the amount of wastewater reused, consistent with public health and environmental constraints.

#### V.2: Monitoring and Regulatory Requirements for Wastewater Reclamation Projects.

Should modifications in monitoring and regulatory requirements be supported to increase municipal wastewater reuse?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support existing monitoring and regulatory requirements as sufficient for wastewater reclamation. Support increased research on environmental and health constraints.
- 2) Support modified monitoring and regulatory requirements to increase the amount of wastewater reused. Support increased research on environmental and health constraints.

#### V.3: Emphasis on Water Conservation and Reclamation in Wastewater Facilities and Water Supply Planning.

How strongly should emphasis on water conservation and reclamation in wastewater facilities and water supply planning be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current emphasis on conservation and reclamation as sufficient.
- 2) Support increased emphasis on conservation and reclamation, consistent with protection of water quality and public health.

- 3) Support maximum conservation and reclamation, consistent with instream uses and water quality protection. Support wastewater discharge to the marine environment only when wastewater reclamation is infeasible.

### VI. MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

#### VI.1: Institutional Arrangements and Management Systems for Areawide Water Quality Management.

What is the appropriate role of various levels of government in implementing the 208 Plan? Also, should changes in the present institutional framework be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

##### A. Management Systems

- 1) Implementation of 208 plan measures should rely primarily on local governments and special districts. Responsibility for coordinating 208 Plan implementation should be at the areawide level.
- 2) Implementation of 208 Plan measures should rely primarily on local governments and special districts. Responsibility for coordinating 208 Plan implementation should be at the State level.
- 3) Implementation of 208 Plan measures should rely primarily on a new agency or agencies, created by a joint powers agreement among existing agencies. Responsibility for coordinating 208 Plan implementation should rest with this new agency or agencies.
- 4) Implementation of 208 Plan measures should rely primarily on the area-wide planning agency.
- 5) Implementation of 208 Plan measures should rely primarily on State agencies.

##### B. Institutional Framework

- 1) Support the current institutional framework for water quality management.
- 2) Support improvements in the institutional framework for water quality management, in particular the coordination or consolidation of management agencies to avoid fragmentation or duplication of services.

#### VI.2: Financing and Needed Regulatory Authority for Planning and Implementation of Best Management Practices for Nonpoint Source Pollution.

How heavily should State and Federal assistance be relied upon for implementation of Best Management Practices for nonpoint sources? Also, how strongly should nonpoint source controls rely on local regulations versus State/Federal regulations?

##### Policy Alternatives:

##### A. Financing

- 1) Nonpoint source controls should be financed mainly through local sources.
- 2) Nonpoint source controls should be financed through State and Federal grants as much as possible. Seek additional State and Federal funding to this end. Local funding alternatives should be included for all nonpoint source controls in the 208 Plan as a contingency.
- 3) Nonpoint source controls should be financed mainly through State and Federal grants.

##### B. Regulatory Authority

- 1) Local implementation of nonpoint source controls should rely on local regulation as much as possible.
- 2) Local implementation of nonpoint source controls should rely on local regulation as much as possible, aided by areawide guidelines.
- 3) Local implementation of nonpoint source controls should rely on local response to State or Federal regulatory requirements.

#### VI.3: Coordination of Water Quality Research and Monitoring Activities with Water Quality Management Planning.

Are shortcomings in the usefulness of research and monitoring for water quality management planning sufficient to justify improved institutional arrangements?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current coordination between research and monitoring planning.
- 2) Support an improved institutional framework for water quality research and monitoring.

#### VI.4: Equitable Financing Mechanisms for Municipal Wastewater Systems (User Charges, Industrial Cost Recovery).

What types of financing mechanisms for municipal wastewater systems should be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support the flexibility of wastewater management agencies to choose among various financing mechanisms.
- 2) Support changes in financing mechanisms to move further towards the "user pays" principle. Generally, do not support changes until further analysis in 208 continuing planning.
- 3) Support changes in financing mechanisms now to move further towards the "user pays" principle.

#### VI.5: Allocation of Limited State and Federal Grants for Wastewater Treatment Facilities to the Region.

What methods for allocating State and Federal grants for wastewater treatment should be supported?

##### Policy Alternatives:

- 1) Support current methods for allocating State and Federal grants for wastewater treatment.
- 2) Support changes in funding restrictions so that State policy is consistent with 208 and AQMP Plans, and so that increased grants for wastewater treatment are allocated to the region.





Draft Final Public Summary  
AREAWIDE POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is currently preparing a 208 Areawide Waste Treatment Management Plan for the South Coast area. Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 legislates that local governments plan how water pollution will be controlled in their area. SCAG has contracted with the following agencies to help develop the 208 Plan: the City of Los Angeles; the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino; Ventura Regional County Sanitation District; Newport-Irvine Waste-Management Planning Agency; and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. In addition, the Los Angeles, Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards are preparing portions of the plan under formal agreement with SCAG. Three Committees (Citizens Advisory, Program, Environmental Quality and Resource Conservation) advise and direct the 208 Program staff, with ultimate decision-making authority resting with SCAG's Executive Committee.

To establish a context and a set of guiding principles for the 208 Plan, regional water quality policies are currently being revised to reflect the progress made in 208 planning. SCAG's policies are used by SCAG as guidelines for action and as a yardstick to measure the effectiveness of SCAG's programs. They are also used by SCAG's members to help guide day-to-day decisions which affect their own communities.

This publication is a summary of the water quality issues and policy alternatives described in detail in the SCAG report, "Areawide Policy Alternatives for Water Quality Management." This report (208-23, Issue Papers #1 and #2) also contains areawide and subregional evaluations of each policy alternative. There are six major elements of the 208 Plan which require policy direction:

- 1. Water Quality Management Framework;
- 2. Nonpoint Source Control Needs;
- 3. Municipal and Industrial Waste Treatment System Needs;
- 4. Residual Waste and Stormwater System Needs;
- 5. Conservation and Reclamation; and
- 6. Management Agencies and Regulatory Programs.

The areawide policies will establish a context for the detailed planning work underway in Phase II of the 208 Program. Detailed studies are being undertaken as part of the "Priority Action Program", "Comprehensive Policy Program" and "Continuing Planning And Action Program" by participating local agencies and SCAG. Public input on preferred policy alternatives will be very important in determining the overall direction of the draft 208 Plan, scheduled for release in late summer, 1978.

Interested citizens and environmental organizations  
are encouraged to participate in discussions on  
"Areawide Policy Alternatives for Water Quality Management"  
at the workshops listed below.

Workshops		
Time:	Date:	Location:
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	May 31	Los Angeles County: 208 Water Quality, Development Guide, Regional Transportation Plan, Elderly & Handicapped Workshops, L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, 404 S. Bixel, Los Angeles
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	June 2	Ventura County: 208 Water Quality, Development Guide, Regional Transportation Plan, Elderly & Handicapped Workshops (1:30-5:00 p.m. only) Oxnard Community Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	June 6	San Bernardino County: 208 Water Quality, Development Guide, Regional Transportation Plan, Elderly & Handicapped Workshops, San Bernardino Convention Center, 303 N. E Street, San Bernardino
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	June 7	Riverside County: 208 Water Quality, Development Guide, Regional Transportation Plan, Elderly & Handicapped Workshops, Raincross Square, 3443 Orange Street, Riverside
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	June 8	Orange County: 208 Water Quality, Development Guide, Regional Transportation Plan, Elderly & Handicapped Workshops, Garden Grove Community Center, 11300 Stanford, Garden Grove

Public Hearing

The public hearing is a good opportunity  
to formally express your concerns on  
how to shape the future of our region.

208 WATER QUALITY, DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday June 13	West Covina City Council Chambers 1444 West Garvey West Covina
Wednesday June 14	Costa Mesa City Council Chambers 77 Fair Drive Costa Mesa
Thursday June 15	Riverside County Administrative Center 4080 Lemon Street — 14th Floor Riverside (Supervisor's Board Room)

FOR INFORMATION

Copies of the full report are available at the SCAG Offices, 600 South Commonwealth, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, California 90005. Reference copies of the full report are available at selected libraries, call (213) 385-1000, Ext. 386 for more information.

TO TESTIFY

Call SCAG at (213) 385-1000, Ext. 386, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Testimony limited to 10 min. Longer testimony may be submitted in writing for the hearing record.

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